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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

US military wants Rumsfeld's head - Hurriyet
Torture orders given by Gen. Miller - Milliyet 5/9
Rumsfeld warns of more 'sadistic, ruthless' photos - Sabah
5/9
Karamanlis, Erdogan agree to turn a new page - Hurriyet 5/9
Erdogan given joyous welcome in Komotini - Milliyet 5/9
Greek Cypriots prefer division in Cyprus - Milliyet
Mass assassination in Chechnya - Milliyet
LA Times warns: Al-Qaeda may strike at NATO Summit - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Torturers of Iraqis denounced - Yeni Safak
Pvt. Harman: 'I was ordered to turn Iraqis' lives into hell'
- Cumhuriyet 5/9
British government disregards report on systematic torture
in Iraq - Zaman
Sadr militia aims to seize Basra - Zaman 5/9
'TRNC PM' Talat calls for world to do business with Turkish
Cypriots - Zaman 5/9
Kadirov had been a target for being 'Kremlin's puppet' -
Cumhuriyet
Bomb attack kills Kadirov - Yeni Safak
Bush steps back: Palestinian state in 2005 a dream - Zaman
5/9
Sharon cancels US visit - Radikal
Chirac: Turkey's integration into EU will be long, difficult
- Radikal

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan's Greece visit: Weekend papers regard PM
Erdogan's visit to Greece as a turning point in relations
between historic rivals Turkey and Greece. Erdogan and
Karamanlis vowed to bury the tensions of the past by
agreeing to establish a strategic partnership between Ankara
and Athens. Karamanlis said that many problems between the
two neighbors would be resolved once Turkey joins the EU.
The two leaders agreed to increase the trade and to open new
border gates. Erdogan told Karamanlis that the Turkish
government is working on the reopening of Halki Seminary.
On Saturday, Erdogan met with representatives of Turkish-
speaking Muslims in western Thrace. He was the first
Turkish leader to visit the region in more than 50 years.
Erdogan listened to the problems faced by ethnic Turks in
the region, especially in the areas of education and
religion. He urged the Turks not to lose their Turkish
ethnic identity, but 'to work to strengthen the country in
which you are citizens.'

Mistreatment of Iraqi captives: Several thousand
demonstrators protested the abuse of Iraqi prisoners in
rallies organized by an Islamist aid foundation in Ankara
and Istanbul over the weekend. Footage of maltreatment of
Iraqi detainees has been a 'diplomatic Pearl Harbor' for the
image of the United States, Turkish papers report. Defense
Secretary Rumsfeld warned on Friday that hundreds more

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photographs of US soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners could worsen the situation. Bush's presidential challenger, John Kerry, and several other US lawmakers have called on Secretary Rumsfeld to resign over the scandal, but national

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security advisor Condoleezza Rice said that Rumsfeld has the strong support of President Bush. Members of the US Congress are increasingly insistent that more senior members of the military and administration must be held responsible.

Higher education bill: Education Minister Huseyin Celik says the government will decide this week whether to press on with the education reform bill that would ease restrictions on religious vocational schools (Imam Hatip) students wishing to enter university. Turkey's military fears that proposals to ease restrictions on Imam Hatip students will increase the influence of Islam in education. The ruling AK Party says easing restrictions on students from state-funded religious schools entering university is a matter of fairness. The Turkish General Staff, backed by opposition parties and most university rectors, regards the reform as an attempt to increase the influence of Islam in education. If the government does press ahead with the changes, it will sharply raise tensions with the army. AK Party leaders will decide at a party group meeting on Monday whether to submit the bill to the parliament this week or to withdraw or modify it.

Parliament approves key constitutional changes: Turkey's parliament approved a package of constitutional amendments last Friday by a vote of 457-8. Most lawmakers from the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) also voted for the reforms. The package abolishes the state security court system and removes military representatives from boards supervising higher education and radio and television broadcasting. The changes give parliament full control over the military budget. Under the amendments, international agreements will take precedence over domestic law. All residual references to capital punishment have now been removed from the constitution.

Cyprus: Monday's papers, citing the Greek daily 'Ta Nea,' report a shift in the position of Greek Cypriot leader Papadopolus with regard to the Cyprus issue. According to the Greek paper, Papadopolus is willing to accept the official division of Cyprus in return for small territorial concessions by the northern Cypriots. Meanwhile, 'Cumhuriyet' reports that the Turkish Cypriot government is working for unilateral implementation of the Annan Plan in the Turkish zone. One third of the property belonging to Greek Cypriots will be returned to its original owners as envisaged by the UN-backed plan.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq Prisoner Abuse

"Is It Necessary to See The Photographs?"

Emre Akoz commented in the mass appeal Sabah (5/10): " I find it rather odd that people are shocked by the torture photos in Iraq. It is strange from two different angles. First, how quickly we all forgot about the torture experts the US had sent to dictatorships in Latin America! Their main duty was to teach the details of torture, such as how to give more pain without killing, how to torture without fingerprints, and how to find a person's weak points. .Second, people wrongly believe that as the technology and education levels in a country increase, torture decreases and, in the end, vanishes completely. This is wishful thinking! The only way to stop torture is to take concrete, serious and determined decisions to prevent it. One other thing that confuses me is the vitriol that has surfaced in Turkey now that these photos have been published. This is fine as far as it goes, but hundreds of thousands of people, from leftists to rightists, faced torture in this country as well. Some of them wrote books or told of the suffering they went through during interviews. Also, some of the torturers have confessed to their crimes. Some were even charged. Where was this vitriol then? Is it necessary to see photos of torture for people to accept the existence of torture and to despise it? There is no doubt that some of our torturers are among those criticizing the torturers in Iraq. Some live across the road in official quarters, and some are our next door neighbors!"

"This Account Must Be Settled"

Oktay Eksi wrote this front page op-ed in the mass appeal Hurriyet (5/9): "President Bush, who was supposed to bring democracy to Iraq, has flunked. As of now, he will either continue to pursue the lawless policies that he began when Al-Qaeda terrorists destroyed the Twin Towers, or he will

understand that Texas culture should remain in Texas and will agree to comply with the rule of law -- a principle that constitutes the most important gain of civilization. In other words, he will learn that the era of unquestionable authority is over, and that the power of even the most powerful state may not be adequate for certain things. Here, we refer particularly refer to things such as ignoring international law, violating human rights, and doing or having others do whatever he wants by disregarding world public opinion. It is true that the world may not be powerful enough to bring a US President to his senses. Thanks God, however, that the United States' internal democracy has finally begun to function. The US media and the Congress, which had seemed blind and deaf after 9/11, have finally woken up and begun to search for answers about whether the US has the right to engage in such arrogant acts. . The fact that President Bush publicly defended Rumsfeld, and the fact that he will not ask for Rumsfeld's resignation show that his mentality has not changed at all. . If President Bush and his administration had respected concepts such as the rule of law and respect for human rights, they would not have covered up this disgrace that came to light in January. Furthermore, they would have punished the criminals in a most severe manner, and would have announced it to the world. Well, it was Mr. Bush who not refused to implement a legitimate legal process for the foreigners detained as enemy combatants long before the Abu Ghraib disgrace. Can anyone claim that those who are imprisoned in Guantanamo without any proof and who face interrogations without any legal representation are luckier than those in Abu Ghraib prison? All of this means we are not talking about just a few rotten apples. We are looking at systematic acts of torture engaged in by US military personnel at the instruction of the US Administration. We must accept this fact. Then, we should check whether or not these acts constitute crimes against humanity, and we should hold discussions on who is responsible for these incidents."

"Settling Accounts with Torturers"

Oral Calislar noted in the social democrat-opinion maker Cumhuriyet (5/9): "The Rumsfeld testimony in the Congress illustrates certain lessons. First and foremost, we see lessons about the sensitivity of the American public to the torture allegations. This outrage has helped to create an atmosphere in which questions are asked about what really happened. Rumsfeld and high-ranking generals of the US Army were embarrassed by the tough questions they faced. The representatives of the US people were able to question them. . The Defense Secretary of the world's most powerful country, and the senior commanders of the world's most powerful army were trying to explain and justify their actions. And they were doing the explaining to the country's elected representatives. . The US has a system that allows the highest level officials to be called to account. In the case of Abu Ghraib case, both Republican and Democratic senators were eager to make this happen. Rumsfeld is a Republican, but this did not seem to matter at all in this process. Questions asked by Republican senators were just as tough as those asked by the opposition Democrats. . While watching the testimony of Rumsfeld and the American generals, I could not help but dream about the possibility that our own torturers will someday face a similar situation."

EDELMAN